



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

I cabled you yesterday that 1 death from yellow fever had occurred in Tuxpan. This information I received from a relative of the deceased who received a telegram to that effect a few minutes before. I considered the information of sufficient importance to cable, on account of the constant relation between that place and Tampico. The places are connected by a lagoon which is navigable by the smallest crafts, and I am quite sure that an effective quarantine will not be maintained by Tampico.

Respectfully, yours,

SAML. H. HODGSON,

Acting Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

TURKEY.

[Report No. 223.]

Sanitary report from Constantinople.

PLAGUE CASES OFF BASSORAH.

CONSTANTINOPLE, *July 20, 1899.*

SIR: I have already reported about the arrival at Bassorah of the steamship *Haidari* coming from Djiddah with 1,212 pilgrims, among whom bubonic plague broke out. According to the regulation ruling the Mohammedan pilgrimage to the Holy Land of the Isken, pilgrims who on their way home, are going to Yemen, Nedjid, and Bassorah (Mesopotamia) must undergo a quarantine at the lazaretto of Camaran. The proprietor of said ship *Haidari*, in order to elude said quarantine, declared in Djiddah that the ship was bound to Mohamara, Persia.

She proceeded to Bassorah, where the agent of the steamship wanted to land the pilgrims, but the sanitary authorities would not allow him. She went to Mohamara, where she landed only 7 pilgrims, and then she came back to land the others. According to the report of Dr. Moschides, the sanitary physician at Bassorah, the landing of the pilgrims began May 26; 78 pilgrims landed that day, among whom a man, aged 40, died as soon as landed. At the post-mortem examination which was held (a very superficial one) the physician found only oedema in the face. He inquired of the physician of the steamer into said sudden death, and the answer was, said death should be attributed to asthma or pneumonia. The following day the sanitary guardians, who were on the *Haidari*, notified Dr. Moschides that a dead body was on board. He had it immediately landed, and found the body of a young man about 25 years old, presenting very accentuated rigor mortis, premature decomposition, and oedema of the face, arms, and legs.

The latter were bluish, the lips as well as the tongue were black, and the abdomen distended. He stated that petechiæ existed on the latter as well as on the breast, the forearms, and all along the spine. The maxillary glands were swollen. It was a plague death which certainly was not alone. Inquiring of the captain of the *Haidari*, Dr. Moschides understood that said death occurred twenty-four hours previously. According to the captain's declarations, the responsibility of the facts falls on the steamer's physician, who failed to report the case. Continuing the inquiry, the sanitary physician found out that 4 more plague cases were on board and that all said plague cases were present since the departure from Djiddah.

SANITARY DEFENSE OF THE COAST OF NEDJID.

A very long discussion took place at the last setting of the sanitary commission concerning the sanitary defense of the coast of Nedjid (Persian Gulf). In my previous reports I have already mentioned said subject and showed how it is difficult, nearly impossible, to protect that shore which is so long and so inhospitable. There is no harbor, not a city on the seashore which is most unhealthy on account of malaria, which is most severe in its symptoms. It would be very interesting to have a consular report from the United States consul at Bassorah on said coast, by which he could inform us about the possibility of instituting there a sanitary service. The sanitary board has already had an unhappy experience of it. Sometime ago several sanitary officials were appointed at Adjir, opposite the island of Bahrein. One of said officials died a few days after his arrival there; the others, among them the sanitary physician, were obliged to run away in order not to be buried there, and finally nobody could stay there on account of their health and their life, which were in danger. As I have already mentioned, the discussion was very long because of the difference of opinion.

The Ottoman members of said commission, as well as the Prussian sanitary representative, were in favor of the establishment of a sanitary service on said coast. The French, the Italian, and the British sanitary representatives were of a quite contrary opinion, alleging, among other arguments, that it would be inhuman to oblige passengers to undergo quarantine in places where they would certainly die from malaria. Unhappily, the experience we have from the lazaretto of Bassorah forces me to be of the same opinion of the latter members of the sanitary commission, though I thought better not to express at all any opinion during said discussion. Said discussion has not ended, it will be continued in next sitting.

RATS MAY SPREAD THE PLAGUE IN SPITE OF THE SANITARY STEPS.

A notice has been sent to the sanitary board, dated June 24, from the direction of the custom-house, stating that in spite of the quarantine steps taken concerning cereals, rats have been found between the straw in which said cereals, namely, rice, are transported. Said cereals are unloaded expressly at Tuzla or at Cavak, in order not to allow rats to land at the custom-house of Stambul. From said lazarettos Cavak or Tuzla, the lighters in which the cereals have been loaded are tugged to the town. In spite of said quarantine steps, rats have been found in said cereals. They had been immediately killed, as it is stated in the above-mentioned notice. Among the belongings of the pilgrims arrived from Mecca mice also have been found.

PUBLIC HEALTH IN TURKEY.

The sanitary news from the provinces of the Turkish Empire state that public health there is good.

LAZARETTO OF BEIRUT.

Several times I laid stress on the lazaretto of Beirut, which does not present the necessary conditions required by the needs of the sanitary service.

It has been decided to build a new one at Stimpalia or Astropalia, an island in the archipelagos between 36° and 37° latitude and 29° longitude, a little north of the island of Rhodes and south of the island of Amorgos.

I have the honor to inclose herein a French copy of the report on said question. At the same time I forward a copy of some remarks of the British and French sanitary representatives concerning the budget of the sanitary board, as well as a printed copy of the general instructions given on disinfection to be performed in the lazarettos of Turkey. I join the bulletin Epizootique, dated 21-23d instant.

PLAGUE IN ALEXANDRIA.

The Ottoman sanitary representative at the International Sanitary Commission in Alexandria reports, July 8, a plague case of a young man who arrived at the latter town from Damanhour. He is employed in a grocery at the latter place, where no plague cases have yet been reported. Upon inquiry, it was found that said grocery was supplied from a grocery in Alexandria where plague cases have already occurred.

In spite of the official inquiry it has not been yet found out the true origin of the plague outbreak in Alexandria. A special commission, composed of members of the International Sanitary Commission, has been appointed in order to make a new inquiry on the subject. Said members are the Greek, the Italian, and the French sanitary representatives, and the inspector-general of the sanitary service of Egypt. These members have been appointed because the plague cases occurred in Alexandria on Greek, Italian, French, and Egyptian subjects.

DEATHS IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

The number of deaths registered in Constantinople from the 19th of last June to the 17th instant is 823, of which 10 were from diphtheria, 7 from measles, 3 from smallpox, 75 from typhoid fever, and 59 from acute inflammation of the respiratory apparatus.

Respectfully, yours,

SPIRIDION C. ZAVITZIANO,
U. S. Sanitary Commissioner.

FOREIGN STATISTICAL REPORTS.

AUSTRALIA—*Victoria—Melbourne.*—Month of May, 1899. Estimated population, 469,882. Total number of deaths 540, including diphtheria, 7; enteric fever, 16; whooping cough, 3, and 59 from phthisis pulmonalis.

BRAZIL—*Bahia.*—Month of February, 1899. Estimated population, 140,000. Total number of deaths 632, including cerebro-spinal meningitis, 3; smallpox, 1, and 54 from phthisis pulmonalis.

CANADA—*Ontario—Sherbrooke.*—Month of July, 1899. Estimated population, 10,110. Total number of deaths, 26. No deaths from contagious diseases.

DANISH WEST INDIES—*St. Thomas.*—Three months ended June 30, 1899. Estimated population, 12,000. Total number of deaths, 90, including diphtheria, 1, and 11 from phthisis pulmonalis.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—*Puerto Plata.*—Six weeks ended August 5, 1899. Estimated population, 5,600. No deaths and no contagious diseases reported.

GREAT BRITAIN—*England and Wales.*—The deaths registered in 33 great towns in England and Wales during the week ended August 5, 1899,